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Henry Rowen
Chairman, National Intelligence Council
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, DC 20505

Dear Mr. Rowen:

I recently asked, through the agency's public affairs office, for a chance to meet with you. I thought I would explain to you directly why I would like to sit down and talk.

The editors of the Journal's editorial page are most interested in a feature article relaying your thoughts on the process of preparing U.S. intelligence estimates. You come to your new post, of course, as a highly regarded analyst who has made noteworthy contributions to the discussion of foreign-policy formulation. Mr. Casey, for his part, has made it clear that he believes the agency's highest duty is to provide meaningful intelligence estimates and analyses.

We simply would like to project some of your views and plans for improving the intelligence product. I want to emphasize that we are interested in your thoughts and words; I envision a feature article based solely on a conversation with you.

My editors and I believe--and I hope you agree--that this is a good time to move on to a substantive, sober discussion of intelligence, one free of political overtones. I know Mr. Casey already has taken steps to improve the intelligence product. Our reading audience is highly interested in your thoughts on what needs to be done in the future.

That, in short, is why I am eager for a chance to meet. I'd be delighted to get together any time your schedule permits. Thank you for your consideration, and if there are any questions, my phone number here is 862-9212. I look forward to seeing you.

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Staff Reporter

cc:

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